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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05470 101510Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------023995 101530Z /45
O 101449Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8448

S E C R E T BOGOTA 5470

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, CO
SUBJ: STARR KIDNAPPING; PUBLIC APPEAL BY MRS JENSEN

REF: STATE 146722

1. MRS. JENSEN IS UNWILLING TO MAKE A PUBLIC APPEAL TO THE FARC AT THIS TIME.

2. PC DIRECTOR SORZANO MET WITH HER YESTERDAY AND SET FORTH THE RATIONALE FOR MAKING SUCH AN APPEAL, DRAWING ON REFTEL. CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS, MRS. JENSEN WAS NOT RECEPTIVE TO THAT IDEA. WHEN SORZANO PRESSED HER FOR REASONS WHY SHE WAS AGAINST MAKING SUCH AN APPEAL, MRS JENSEN HAD DIFFICULTY ARTICULATING AN EXPLANATION BUT INDICATED THAT SHE FELT SHE HAD ALREADY MADE SUCH APPEALS TO FARC IN HER PREVIOUS LETTERS AND WITHOUT RESULTS. SHE ALSO SAID THAT SHE WAS NOW MAINLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT NEWS OR REACTION VILLAMIL WOULD BRING BACK FROM HIS TRIP TO NEIVA. (MRS. JENSEN IS NOW SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BOGOTA FOR THE U.S. ON THURSDAY JUNE 15.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM THE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS THAT SORZANO AND OTHERS HERE HAVE HAD WITH MRS. JENSEN THAT SHE HAS BECOME ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY SCEPTICAL AND ON GUARD AGAINST PROPOSALS AND

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TACTICS WHICH SHE PERCEIVES AS COMING FROM WTF. SHE HERSLF HAS A SIMPLE INTEREST IN FREEING HER SON AND HAS OFTEN RELATED HER IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON HAS ADDITIONAL INTERESTS IN MIND WHICH INFLUENCE AND COMPLICATE ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. IN HER PRESENT HIGHLY FRUSTRATED STATE OF MIND, SHE FREQUENTLY LASHES OUT AT THE WTF AND AT THE EMBASSY OVER OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH "THE POLICY", WHICH SHE SEES AS INIMICAL TO

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HER SON'S WELFARE. WE BELIEVE THIS ACCOUNTS FOR HER REACTION TO OUR LATEST PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC APPEAL. IN ADDITION, SHE HAS BECOME VERY FRAIL AND PROBABLY SHIES AWAY FROM THE ORDEAL AND SPECTACLE OF A PUBLIC APPEARANCE WITH THE PRESS AT HAND.

4. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH MRS. JENSEN, SORZANO WENT ON TO MEET WITH VILLAMIL ALONE. SORZANO MADE THE POINTS IN PARA THREE OF REFTEL, WITHOUT OF COURSE BEING ABLE TO CITE PLANS BY MRS. JENSEN FOR A PUBLIC APPEAL. VILLAMIL CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT HE WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE SUSPICIOUS OF THE SECOND LETTER PURPORTEDLY COMING FROM THE FARC. HE IS NOW BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT FOR NEIVA AND SORZANO EXPECTS TO SEE HIM MONDAY, AS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED.
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